

## STOW BEDON & BRECKLES PARISH COUNCIL

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### Council Meeting on 18 September 2017

#### Agenda Item 9

**To consider** applying to the Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership scheme for a 50% grant towards the cost of a Speed Awareness Messaging device (SAM2) to be deployed in Mere Road and in Lower Stow Bedon.

1. **Background.** At the Council Meeting on 17 July a member of the public expressed concerns about the speed of traffic on Mere Road and made a plea for the Council to try to do something about it. The Clerk pointed out that Norfolk County Council had just announced another round of the Parish Partnership Scheme, and that he had previously used this to partly fund a SAM2 (Speed Awareness Message) Vehicle Activated Sign under this scheme for one of his other parishes. This note is to provide the Council with the necessary information to decide whether to place a bid under the scheme.
2. **SAM2.**
  - 2.1. The SAM2 is a portable, battery-powered device which shows motorists how fast they are travelling. If they are within the speed limit, just the speed is displayed. If they exceed the speed limit, it shows their speed plus a SLOW DOWN message, but if they exceed the limit by 10 mph, only the SLOW DOWN message is shown. (This is to remove the temptation to see how high a “score” the driver can obtain.)
  - 2.2. Research shows that the device is most effective if it does not remain in the same location. NCC therefore requires it to be moved on at least a monthly basis. This means attachment brackets are fixed to all the approved posts, and the device is locked to the bracket. Moving it is a simple process, and allows downloading of the data captured, and changing the rechargeable battery.
  - 2.3. The device captures the time and speed of vehicles, analysing this in 5 mph groups and 5 minute slots. This can then be used to produce a wealth of reports, but at its simplest, produces the number of vehicles (often surprisingly high), the maximum speed recorded, and the 85 percentile (the speed below which 85% of vehicles are travelling). In Wretham we have been able to use this data to get both the Police and the Safety Camera Partnership to come and monitor for a period, issuing penalty notices as appropriate.
  - 2.4. Obviously somebody has to take charge of the device, to move it, to download data and provide reports to the Council, and to recharge the batteries. The parishioner who raised the matter has said he would be prepared to do this on behalf of the Council.
3. **Possible locations.** NCC Highways are now only happy for the SAM2 to be used in a 30 mph limit. Accordingly the Clerk met with David Jacklin, NCC Highways Engineer, and inspected Mere Road and the road through Lower Stow Bedon, and the following locations have been agreed as being suitable:
  - 3.1. Mere Road, 30 mph repeater sign outside Harvesters, in both directions (2 locations).
  - 3.2. Mere Road, 30 mph repeatersign opposite Annalou Meadow, in both directions (2 locations). David Jacklin was unsure about this as the view to the west is only 50 metres,

but Westcotec (the manufacturer of the SAM2) say that this will be adequate distance in a 30 mph limit area.

- 3.3. Unfortunately it was not possible to find any suitable locations further east on Mere Road, because of bends, too narrow verges, or too much vegetation growth.
- 3.4. Lower Stow Bedon, 30 mph repeater sign opposite Stow Bedon Hall, in both directions (2 locations). This repeater post is relatively short, and when we were there the verge had grown so as to partially obscure the speed limit sign, so positioning the SAM2 beneath it (as proposed with locations on Mere Road) would not be acceptable. However, David Jacklin said he would be happy with Westcotec replacing the post, with a taller one, so that the repeater sign remained at the same height, with the SAM2 above it.
- 3.5. Lower Stow Bedon, 30 mph repeater sign outside Hillside Farm Bungalow, in both directions (2 locations).
4. **Installation.** Westcotec would deal with all aspects of delivery and installation.
5. **Cost.** The SAM2 is the only sign of this type approved by NCC, and is supplied by Westcotec Limited. The Clerk has obtained a quote from them, and the cost would be as follows:
  - 5.1. SAM2, with 2 batteries, charger. £2,800
  - 5.2. Data collection unit, software & leads £250
  - 5.3. Additional brackets (8 @ £50) £400
  - 5.4. Replace post £89
  - 5.5. Padlocks to secure sign to posts (from Screwfix) £25
  - 5.6. **Total** **£3,564**
- 5.7. All costs are net of VAT, but as the Council can recover VAT paid, this is the actual figure involved.
- 5.8. The only additional (and recurring) cost will be for insurance (see below).
6. **Parish Partnership Scheme.** Under this Scheme NCC covers 50% of the cost. The cost to the Council (and therefore the Council Tax payers) would therefore be £1,782. The Council needs to put in a bid, and in past years virtually all acceptable bids have been successful. (Occasionally NCC has needed to put in extra funding to ensure that this is the case, so the chances of this being successful are good). Both David Jacklin and Damian Eagle, our NCC Councillor have indicated that they would support the bid. The SAM2 will be the property of the Parish Council, and be added to the Asset Register and insurance policy, which will only cost something like £20 p.a.

**Julian Gibson**  
**Clerk**

8 September 2017